

IOWAccess Advisory Council  
Minutes of April 16, 1999 Meeting

Present: Diane Kolmer, Jean Rommes, Richard Varn, Dave Arringdale, Carol French-Johnson, Herb Strentz, Steve Falck, Tom Shepherd, Erwin Erickson, Nancy Richardson, Eric Bakker, Dennis Dietz, Gerry Bair, Allen Burchett, Joe Alber, Lorrie Tritch, Linda Plazak, Lowell Sneller, LuAnn O'Shea (substituting for Dennis Guffey), Mike Triplett (for Susan Whitson), Quent Boyken (by conference call), Kay Arvidson, Kent Hiller, Diane Van Zante

Absent/No Representative: Cynthia Eisenhauer, Libby Nelson, Robert Dvorsky, Libby Jacobs, Joe Weinman, Marsha Ternus, Steve King, Linda Hanson

Guest: Brandon Burnett (from IDED), Glen Dickinson (LFB)

1) New Members/Introductions - Due to the addition of several new members, each person introduced themselves and identified the sector they represent on the Council.

2) Minutes from January 25 Meeting - The minutes of January 25, 1999 were approved and seconded.

3) General Overview/Background - For the benefit of the new members, Jean Rommes provided an overview of IOWAccess. Originally there were 14 IOWAccess projects. Their mission was to bring Iowa government to the people and make it available to everyone. It has been a year since we contracted with Iowa Interactive to build the IOWAccess Network. Considerable time has been spent building the infrastructure and applications. Pilot projects were also initiated. Agencies are very supportive of the Network and current demand outweighs resources.

4) Comments by Richard Varn, New CIO for State of Iowa - About 1986, the legislature started to conceptualize a way to access state government, looking at a number of different initiatives. They wanted to develop a single point through which all government services would flow. In 1994, we received some federal money to launch the initiative and developed the Intergovernmental Enterprise Panel. When Rich interviewed with Governor Vilsack, he broached the idea of a CIO for all of state government, not just a director for ITS. A CIO would be responsible for coordinating all levels of technology within state government and would cover both policy and operations. In the past, contracting out seemed to be the first choice instead of using existing employees. The State needs to attract, train and reward its employees properly. Public employees need to be first and foremost in charge, contracting out should be viewed as an option when it is cost effective to do so. In terms of Rich's relationship with the advisory council, he said he didn't see a lot changing within the next year. We have until October 15th to study a structure for the new department. The Governor has also indicated that he wants to put together a new technology council. There will be some reorganization within ITS as well.

5) General Manager's Report - Kent Hiller gave an overview of his report, dated April 1999.

- Content section: Previously, we discussed the issue of letting citizens know when they leave a state website. Now there is actually a message that indicates this. One new item is an online index of glossary terms used. Kent has been working on data migration with approximately 40 webmasters in various state agencies. Iowa Interactive assisted Ethics and Campaign Disclosure on a redesign. There is now a website upgrade index page so that customers can check the progress of their upgrade. Iowa Interactive is also working on a new website for Secretary of State Culver.

- Training: Kent's staff has been teaching ITS staff more about website design. Development section: Iowa Interactive has been working on an IDOP application that allows managers within state government to view potential employees' resumes and applications from a web browser.

- Online Credit Card Processing - Iowa Interactive is working on developing a credit card processing module that can be replicated.

- Staffing: New staff includes Steve Marchal (system administrator) and Yang Su (developer). In addition, Iowa Interactive is looking for one additional software developer. Kay Arvidson was promoted to Director of Marketing and Tracy Smith was hired as a Marketing Associate.

- Marketing: Iowa Interactive has identified 55 agencies that represent a potential for 120 websites. To date, they have met with 34 agencies and divisions. Iowa Interactive has submitted an application for Vice President Gore's Hammer Award.

6) Demo on New State Website by Kent Hiller - In concert with the new administration, a new website has been developed. Kent gave a brief demonstration of the new website. With approval, it could be functional by May 1. The Council voted to approve the new website.

Rich talked about setting up a "WIRE" (Web Internet Resource Executive) team that would be made up of a content person, webmaster, person who knows policy and standards, and a person who represents customers. The team's mission would be reviewing website information/changes. This item will be discussed again at the next council meeting.

7) Legislation -

- Electronic Commerce/Digital Signature-has passed the House and is in the Senate. No problems anticipated.

- Appropriations Bill (HF762) - If HF762 passes both houses, the Council will be tasked to study/analyze the fee-based model and how it could/should work. The deadline for recommendations is Oct. 15. HF762 also increases the cap associated with driver's record fees from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000. It also establishes a revolving fund for fees taken in, allowing carryover from one fiscal year to another. One of the sticking points is funding -- fee-based or revenue-based versus appropriation, and free services (free now) versus fee-based services. Should you sell access to public information? The Council will seek direction from the new administration.

- Governor's New Technology Council - There is a list of possible nominees for the council, but they are waiting for a decision from the legislature before moving forward.

The Council asked that future study bills/legislation of a pertinent nature be forwarded to them as early as possible so that they might be aware of items related to their responsibilities.

8) Discussion on Identifying New Subcommittees (hold over from previous meetings) - Do we still want to establish a security/privacy or legal subcommittee? Herb Strentz agreed to compile some information on privacy issues and public records. The Council decided to go ahead and establish a security/privacy subcommittee. Herb agreed to chair the subcommittee, Diane Kolmer will also serve, as well as someone else to be named. Rich said the first step is establishing a privacy policy statement. This should also be posted to the state homepage.

9) Attorney General's Opinion on Advertising - Dave Arringdale asked the Attorney General's Office for an informal opinion. Technically and legally it can be done, however from a policy standpoint, how do you restrict it? From the Attorney General's perspective, it would be better not to allow advertising. We will pursue some clarification via case law.

10) Discussion of Criteria Used in Setting Priorities for New Agency Projects - Current demand outweighs Iowa Interactive's resources, making decisions difficult with regard to which projects to take and in what order. What criteria should we focus on? Kent talked about developing a matrix showing the requests and their impact, which could then be used in prioritizing projects. A structured process is needed. Kent will compile a list of his requests and distribute it to members prior to the next meeting. With additional training, we could also empower agencies to complete some of the projects themselves. At the November 24, 1998 meeting of the Council, we identified a partial list of criteria. Dave, Rich and Kent will work together to develop a more comprehensive list (to be developed and sent out prior to the next meeting)

11) Announcements and Wrap-Up - The next council meeting is scheduled for May 25. Diane and Jean will work with Rich in anticipation of the legislation passing so that we can begin looking at the study/recommendation process with October deadline. Rich suggested setting up a listserv and doing more homework ahead of time, thereby making meetings less time-consuming and more productive.